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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DECAL holding community forum, webinars on
Proposed New Safe Sleeping Rules**

*American Academy of Pediatrics has expanded recommendations
to reduce risk of SIDS and SUIDS*

ATLANTA, Ga., (February 28, 2013) – Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) will hold a community forum and two webinars in March to review expanded recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics on safe sleep environments in child care programs, reducing the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Sudden Unexpected Death Syndrome (SUIDS).

“DECAL supports the current recommendations and proposes to revise our current rules for safe sleeping environments in child care learning centers, group day care homes and family day care homes,” said Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Services Kristie Lewis. “These meetings allow us to fully explain the proposed changes and receive public comment before a final decision is reached.”

The community forum will be held on **Tuesday, March 5, 2013**, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM in the Auditorium, Building C, at Atlanta Technical College, located at 1560 Metropolitan Parkway in Southwest Atlanta. This meeting will cover proposed safe sleep rules for all child care programs.

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The next two meetings will be presented by webinar and will be accessible from anywhere using a computer, smartphone or tablet. The webinar on **Thursday, March 7, 2013**, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM will cover proposed safe sleep rules for child care centers and group day care homes. The webinar on **Thursday, March 14, 2013**, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM will cover proposed safe sleep rules for family day care homes.

Child Care Center and Group Day Care home participants can register online for the March 7 webinar at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/120354490> and Family Day Care Home participants can register online for the March 14 webinar at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/218981978>.

Drafts of the proposed rule changes will be sent to all licensed and registered providers by e-mail prior to the first meeting. They will also be available on the DECAL website at www.decals.ga.gov. Interested persons can send comments or questions to ccsrulerevisions@decals.ga.gov.

About DECAL

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia's children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia's Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program, federal nutrition programs, and manages voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to www.decals.ga.gov.